

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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Topics of the Month

THE June heat wave has prompted once again a query in our mind. How does the hot weather affect us organisationally? Theoretically, summer should be *the* time for organisation. The light nights ought to tempt to outdoor work of all kinds, particularly canvasses, membership ought to be easier to get and finances improve, because of the seasonal improvement in employment. But do these things actually happen? We believe they do not; most Parties need an urge to keep them at their jobs during the summer months. In our opinion the eight months from mid-September to mid-May are most prosperous months with Local Labour Parties. Summer breeds lethargy, and such energy as there is is readily absorbed in expeditions, holidays and the "call of the land" at home. Despite this, one always meet those people who in the winter months want to postpone campaigns and similar activities till the "better weather." Will these people never learn? And what are these procrastinators doing just now?

The wealth of beauty and of brains which descended upon the Hartlepoons for the Women's Conference had a busy and a profitable time. We note among the matters discussed was that of the small number of women candidates selected by constituencies. As usual some speakers wanted to know why women were not "given" some of the best seats to fight instead of the hardest. What precisely is the meaning of that term "given" which we have heard used in other quarters? Who "gives" candidatures away in the Labour Party? The innuendo invariably seems that the Headquarters of the Party in some mysterious way engineer this matter, and give preference to a class of candidate pleasing

to themselves. There is not a jot or tittle of truth in this suggestion, come from what quarter it may. In our experience of candidatures—and that is a very long one—we have never known a single instance where Headquarters' bias or wire-pulling has been attempted to secure the selection of any particular candidate, or type of candidate. Constituencies have this matter entirely in their own hands. The list of available and possible candidates is an impartial document, supplied without comment or suggestion to Constituency Parties seeking selection. Even where shorter lists of selected persons have been requested our invariable experience has been that names suggested have been impartially put forward without the slightest attempt to impede the free choice of the Party concerned.

It is nevertheless a fact that women candidatures are comparatively few in number, and the reason for this fact must be sought in other directions. In the first place we would ask whether, notwithstanding the unanimity of the Women's Conference on this question, the women themselves in their constituencies stand up for the same principle that they have advocated at Conference. Our own experience is entirely to the contrary. Here are a few of the incidents that have come under our notice. (a) The name of a prominent and able woman candidate was suggested to a woman D.L.P. Secretary. The name was promptly turned down without reference to the local Executive, on the ground that a woman candidate was unsuitable. (b) A woman and a man were before a selection conference; the women's vote was evenly divided as far as one could judge. (c) A woman candidate was selected by a certain constituency; the Executive was later almost evenly divided regarding the continuance of the candidature, and as many women were on one side as on the other. (d)

A leading woman was suggested for a certain by-election; she was turned down by the votes of the women present, and ultimately a stranger was selected who had not even met the Executive or the Party prior to the decision to select him. Everybody knew the woman; none knew the man. (e) A woman candidate was suggested to a certain constituency. The women present said that a woman candidate would not "do" in that constituency at all. We could multiply these instances, and the phrase just used is one heard over and over again. Women, as well as men, will agree that a woman candidature is a fine thing, but *it must be elsewhere*, and not in their own constituency. How many of the delegates at West Hartlepool had been guilty in this respect?

We readily admit that a healthier spirit pervades the Movement in this matter than was apparent some years ago. We have not forgotten a selection conference in 1918 where the delegates were almost evenly divided, and the minority threatened that they would take no action to secure the election of the lady who had just been selected, who was a woman of international renown, since dead. But there are other reasons which account for the small number of women selections, and these might well be faced up to by the Movement. In the first place, the women of the Movement are at a disadvantage inasmuch as Trades Union membership is largely masculine, and they are therefore almost excluded from promotion as Trades Union candidates. More important is the fact that though the Party has an abundance of suitable talent in the constituencies, and among the Women's Sections, there are comparatively few women in command of the leisure which is required for a Parliamentary candidature. If any proof of this is required, one has only to look at the "possible" list to note how few women have actually been able to offer themselves as candidates. Our position in this respect renders any comparison with the Liberal and Tory Parties altogether unfair. Tory dames can afford to devote on others the duties which in a Labour home must fall upon the wife. This fact is evidenced to a lesser degree in Local Government candidatures, but its effect is to be seen even there. The type of woman candidate

which Labour has perforce had to fall back upon, is, therefore, if we may put it delicately, not always a fair sample taken from the bulk; quite clever, but—Perhaps to this matter we had better devote another paragraph.

Ungallant as our last comment may appear, it is nevertheless true. The handful of women who are in the forefront of Labour's fight have got there because of indomitable will, sheer drive and outstanding ability, which qualities in a woman are of themselves a discouragement to admirers. Of course the theorist will say, candidates should be selected on merit and not because of sex. Certainly, we agree—the theory is excellent. But after all Constituency Parties are composed of human material and theorise as much as one likes the fact of sex exists, despite of all repressions. And femininity is a mighty powerful force—we prefer not to use that modern and fashionable phrase "sex appeal." Now the average intellectual Labour woman has given both her body and her soul to the Movement, and though likes repel likes and opposites attract, the woman has become so like a man that the men are indifferent, and the women—well they are just awed. Brutal as this may sound, it does account for the fact that there is no rush to select certain types of women, though the field is free for the genuine specimen of her sex, if ever she takes heartily to Parliamentary candidatures.

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A PAGE OF MEDICAL ADVICE FOR OUR READERS.

Long experience has shown us that Local Labour Parties, like individuals, suffer from many ills and ailments. Parties are, of course, "bodies" (individually we may refer to them as "the body"), and their attributes are often only too truly human.

The "Labour Organiser," whose business it has been for so long to feel the pulse and prescribe for Local Parties, has induced a well-known Labour practitioner to set down a few of the commoner complaints which affect our Movement, together with some suggested remedies for same. We do not guarantee a complete cure for every patient. Indeed, in some cases "complications" set in, making a cure slow and difficult. Several of the treatments prescribed below are then necessary. We do, however, guarantee that all the prescriptions given are perfectly harmless, that they contain no noxious ingredients, and that the taking of same by any Party will in no wise prejudice its health—on the contrary, a normally healthy system will benefit by the application of any of the cures prescribed.

NERVES.

Symptoms: This is essentially a town disease, and is more commonly found among Borough Parties than in County Divisions. The symptoms are a certain jumpiness in the decisions of the Party; quarrelsome and querulous proceedings at meetings; frequent challenges of chairmen's decisions; rescinding of resolutions; a general distrust of Party leaders and Party policy; censures of officials and Head Office, followed almost always by a falling off in membership and general listlessness (which see).

Cure: A doctor should be called in immediately in the person of the Regional Officer of the Labour Party. Acceptance of his paternal advice may benefit the patient but certain members of the body may require severe chastisement, which should be administered with kindness and firmness. The "socialist spirit" is recommended as a certain aid to recovery, but care is required as to the manner in which this is introduced to the body. If the doctor is himself im-

pregnated with this valuable elixir, the effect is perceptible on the patient.

Attempts should be made to administer the remedy by the introduction of speakers who can emphasise the altruistic side of Socialism, and evidence comradely interest in the patient. Strong doses of spirit in the form of aggressive and critical speakers are to be avoided.

The diet may be varied by inducing the patient to partake of "cabinet pudding." This should be taken for the unusual purpose of a corrective (rather than as a sweet or a sweetener) and certain members of the late Labour Government are indicated as ingredients.

YELLOW JAUNDICE.

Symptoms: A yellowing of the body which may be interpreted as a sign of the influence of Liberal-Labour or ultra-right-wing germs in the system. The complaint is commonest in districts with a number of elected representatives, dependent on a mass vote, which has been built up on Trades Union instincts rather than on Socialist propaganda. It is almost always accompanied by weakness of the body as represented by the official Party and an irritation in certain places occasioned by the stings of local "Reds" who are attempting an elementary cure.

Cure: That wonderful elixir — the "socialist spirit." The body is suffering from a want of rich red corpuscles, though these must be induced from inside and can rarely be transplanted on the body from an outside source. The patient should be induced to listen to speakers who can explain in simple terms the Socialist ideal and the policy of the Labour Party. Frequent doses are necessary, and special attention should be given to the Council Group who would benefit by attendance at Educational and Policy Conferences. Suitable literature should be circulated among the rank and file, among whom a quick cure is to be expected. The Council Group however, will require a substantial amount of nursing before convalescence sets in; this may be hastened by healthy associations, and if practicable, by a visit from Labour Councilors from a progressive town.

FLATULENCE.

Symptoms: This complaint affects certain members of the body rather than the body itself. Unlike the well-known complaint which patent medicines so abundantly cater for, this trouble, when evidenced among Local Parties, is less distressing to the person afflicted than to his neighbours. Indeed it is they who are the real sufferers. A windy comrade or a windy speaker, is a downright abomination. The complaint is evidenced by a desire to speak on every possible occasion, and generally to express the wrong sentiments, and those which have the most disturbing effect on others. In simple cases the complaint may amount to no more than a superfluity of verbosity, or the ability to express at inordinate length what might have been said in a sentence.

Cure: In the Middle Ages a too loquacious guid-wife had a dose of the Ducking Stool, but we dare not advocate such medieval treatment here. At the same time treatment for this complaint involves a certain degree of harshness on the part of those who administer it, besides a genuine attempt at self-cure on the part of the person afflicted. Where the disease is prevalent in a Party it is a healthy thing to limit all speeches to three minutes, and of course never to permit two speeches on one subject. The sufferer soon discovers that he is compelled to say what is important in a brief compass of time, and the habit once formed by compulsion will ultimately grow upon him.

PARALYSIS.

Symptoms: By no means an uncommon complaint, and a serious one at that. It may affect either the whole body or parts thereof. The symptoms are an entire cessation of activities; the stagnation of membership, and even a refusal to take medicine in the way of speakers or other aid proffered by the Labour Party.

Cure: Galvanic treatment is, of course, the ideal one if it can be applied, but to galvanise a dead Party into life needs a General Election when the cure is probably too late. More often, unfortunately, the surgeon's knife must be applied, and the dead thing cut away entirely so that a new part may grow. We have known few cases where recovery has been made without a surgical operation. When

paralysis is the trouble, one must abandon hope of self-cure by the present members, and endeavours to save the patient must concentrate on finding new blood of exceptional vitality. The old body may in time help in forming an attractive background, but new parts are needed.

BLOOD PRESSURE.

Symptoms: This too is mostly a town disease, and a symptom of the strenuous life. It is frequently accompanied by indigestion, or the mal-assimilation of Socialist food. The symptoms are a general kicking over of the traces; an inability to settle down to routine work; impatience of planning and ordered methods; and a general tendency to consider that the whole Movement is going too slow.

Practitioners may differ in their diagnosis of this complaint. It is often treated as simple indigestion and ascribed to too rich a diet. Communist doctrines and the reading of ill-balanced literature are frequently the cause of the complaint. The patient develops impatience and disbelief in his own Party and policy and acquires the unfortunate habit of attacking friends rather than foes. A burning sense of injustice consumes his whole being, and instead of soberly planning to fight the evils he sees he suffers from frequent fits bordering on apoplexy which leave the body exhausted and unable to accomplish even light tasks.

Cure: A simple diet please. The Party which suffers as we have described nearly always thirsts for semi-Communist speakers, who only make the condition worse. We do not recommend the use of antidotes in the way of right-wing speakers, because of the reactions on the patient and the possibility of exciting him still further. We recommend insistence on doses of simple Labour propaganda such as is contained in the latest Labour Party pamphlets and preached by the majority of Labour Party speakers. The patient's thirst for condiments must be curbed, while at the same time every endeavour should be made to give the Party, and through that the individual, *something to do*. Absorption in *doing something for Socialism*, i.e., in making members or distributing literature, is a fine and healthy exercise. It benefits "the body" and the mind, and while denying opportunities for "over-eat-

ing" it gives time for the assimilation of healthy Labour diet.

Bruising the patient, so often practised, is the wrong cure for this complaint.

ANAEMIA—LISTLESSNESS— GENERAL DEBILITY.

Symptoms: These three complaints are so commonly seen together that they may be said to be symptoms one of another. Indeed, one complaint is rarely seen without the others.

The symptoms are a slackening down of effort, a flabbiness and weakness in all parts of the body, and general unhealthiness of the whole system.

Cure: Once again that wonderful elixir—the Socialist spirit. The rich red corpuscles are absent. Ordinarily no rapid cure is to be expected, for the symptoms are generally well advanced, and the complaint pervades the whole Division.

The causes of this complaint must be sought for, and they are not always readily perceptible. Socialist propaganda may have been taken in great quantities, but it may be found that the patient has developed a lack of the power of assimilation, and the digestive apparatus has been weakened. In most cases all the organs are out of sorts and incapable of functioning. The patient leads a miserable existence.

In seeking for the causes examine carefully the bones of the body. In other words, the structure on which the Party is built. We have discovered anaemia in a body which strangely enough never had any skeleton at all. In other words, the body was just held together by some loose sort of bond, but no rules or constitution existed. A structure fundamentally weak and unworkable is a common contributory to these diseases.

Next examine the head of the body, i.e., the secretary, chairman and local leaders. The head is sure to be pretty bad; sometimes thick, sometimes soft, but anyway, precious little good at all. The surgeon may very well come in here. But if an operation is contemplated one must find another head. This is the real trouble. The parts are sometimes obstinate to remove. But having found at least one person who will temporarily serve as a head, or a centre, the real cure begins.

Absolute insistence on order, system and regular habits is essential. Anaemic Parties meet just when the Secretary or Chairman thinks fit—not regularly. Accounts are badly kept, or not kept at all. Summonses to meetings go out anyhow; affiliations and delegateship are not looked after, and recruitment of members probably never attempted at all; if it is done it is generally attempted without a system, and in the most stupid possible manner.

An anaemic Party requires new blood. The new head cannot do this job without the patient's own aid. Therefore insist that between one meeting and another at least a few people, not old disgusted members, but new people entirely, shall be visited and invited to join the Party. Don't ask for too much. If there are six people left in the Party, don't ask for twenty persons to be visited. Go down to twelve—two apiece—or lower still. One would be satisfied if only four persons are visited, if one can be sure that another four will be visited after the next meeting, and so on. It is this steady infusion of new blood which alone will alter the system.

The prevalence of anaemia and general debility is no indication of lack of Socialist propaganda. Indeed like a child who wastes food the patient may have had too plentiful a spread, and be inclined to turn up his nose at a diet of speakers a hungry body would jump at. Nevertheless, a normal diet and no more should be continued, and new members in particular should be encouraged to partake of this food.

BOURNEMOUTH.

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Get right away from the Movement and have a holiday or rest with us. Terms from 49/- per week. Write Manager.

We note with interest that the National E.C. of the Labour Party is offering to pay the expenses of two members of the League of Youth desirous of taking the Party course of study in election law. League of Youth Branches have been asked to nominate members for this privilege, and a selection is shortly to be made.

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Labour's Guerilla Press

By LOUIS FENN, M.Sc.

(Prospective Candidate for Handsworth).

A *guerilla* is not a great ape, but a little war. It is conducted, not by the big battalions with all the panoply of military engineering, but by adventurous bands of irregulars. It is desperate and reckless and often very costly in life; but given a terrain with plenty of cover and an able and intrepid leader, it is capable of holding up the advance of very much superior forces.

Our gallant little Labour weeklies, hanging on the flank of the great army of capitalist papers, perform a similar function in politics. At present many of them keep appearing and disappearing like the Cheshire cat—"nothing left but the smile." If the Party realised the importance and the possibilities of the printed word they would increase and multiply, smile and all. The modern problem of Socialist propaganda is to reach the electorate. A properly conducted Labour weekly, *backed by an adequate distributive organisation*, would reach more people than all our propaganda meetings, and with more effect. Moreover it would advertise and feed those meetings, which at present are too often conducted without adequate publicity.

The important thing is to get the paper *read*. Those responsible for its production should realise that whether their paper is sold or given away, it has to compete for attention with commercial publications expertly written to catch the public taste. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that such competition condemns us to merely trivial writing. As a matter of fact the public taste is improving rather fast. Anyone who doubts this should compare—say—the *Tit Bits* of pre-war days with the same paper today. There is an increasing public which demands serious—though not solemn—writing.

And in the first place, the paper needs to *look* attractive. There are good and bad ways of using type, and it is of no use relying on your printer to find the best way. It is not his job. Some responsible person ought to be told off to study lay-out, and to consult with the printer about the appearance of each issue. An enormous improvement in appearance could be secured with very little extra cost. The poverty of the Movement does not really condemn it to unattractive printing.

In the second place, the paper must be attractively written. Attractive is not the same thing as "literary" writing in the conventional and high-brow sense. The great masters of English style may be read with profit by the would-be Labour journalist, but they should certainly not be imitated. His models should be rather the successful popular dailies and such pioneer writers of English as Robert Blatchford. The things to aim at are, first of all clarity, secondly short sentences of simple construction, thirdly the use of homely words, fourthly short paragraphs which really *are* paragraphs and correspond to the movement of the thought expressed, and lastly the sort of liveliness and sparkle which is partly a gift and partly an acquirement.

There is a superstition among intelligent working people that writing is difficult. My personal belief is that the ability to write acceptable popular journalism is much more common than most people credit, and that it is more often found among "uneducated" people than among those whose training has led them to reverse conventional standards. The worker with an inclination to write is often intimidated by middle class "culture" to such an extent that he aims at the wrong thing and achieves mere imitative mediocrity. It would pay the Labour Movement to provide the right sort of sympathetic tuition for those of its members who show a desire to express themselves with the pen. Writing is very great fun, besides being a potential service to the Movement.

Why can we not have a Labour school of journalism, or at least run summer schools for comrades concerned in the production of Labour papers? We do at present make some attempt to train speakers for oral propaganda. Why should we not try to graft on to the speakers' classes which are so often asked for by our members some training in the use of the written word? During the next few years our Movement will stand or fall by the resourcefulness of its propaganda, and we cannot afford to neglect any kind of ability which shows itself in our ranks.

(To be continued.)

Two Live Parties

DARLINGTON.

The Annual Report of the Darlington Labour Party is a most refreshing document. Relying purely on the resources within the constituency the Party employs a capable agent at the standard salary (and it has just substantially increased his wages) and proves to the rest of the Movement how good an investment this can be.

Party membership has nearly doubled during the past twelve months, and a record sum of £279 was secured from members' subscriptions. The year began with a balance of £109 12s. 9d. in hand, and finished up with a credit balance of £143 6s. 1d.

Nor is this a purely money-raising Party as the genuine income from membership shows. Propaganda it is stated in the annual report was never taken so seriously as it was in 1932; the increased membership involved greater activity, and the need to educate the new members was recognised.

The Party, as the report says, has become something more than a mere political machine; it has developed into a social institution, which must now cater for the educational and social needs of its members.

Darlington Labour Party publishes its own local monthly, which is a self supporting paper; it runs a Labour Club and Institute, has a live Youth Movement, and a capable agent in Mr. W. L. Davies. Congratulations all round.

BRISTOL EAST.

One of the best, but one of the latest balance sheets to arrive is that of the Bristol East D.L.P. The late arrival, however, is due to the fact that these accounts cover fourteen months to end 28th February, 1933. The report is a wonderfully encouraging document, and its simple statement of fact and telling figures betoken a modesty which it is our duty in these pages to unveil.

The membership at the close of the year was 2,566, of whom 406 are women and 2,146 are men. This is an increase of one hundred on the previous year. The total income from individual members was £265 0s. 0½d. The income of the Party, exclusive of hall account, totalled £878 13s. 8d.,

this item being also exclusive of agent's salary or outside subsidy.

A striking feature of the report is the detailed balance sheets given of every Ward Committee and Section, and each one of them show some cash balance in hand.

This year the Party, which for many years had occupied premises at 84, Church Road, Redfield, Bristol, purchased larger and more commodious premises. These premises figure in a separate account at a valuation of £4,300, of which a substantial portion has been paid off.

We should have liked to have reprinted the whole of the Bristol East report, but must content ourselves with the following brief extracts:

"An additional 25 voters were added to the annual register by the Party's efforts. . . .

"All the Women's Sections report greater interest and increased attendance at their meetings. Two new sections have been established.

"Wards have continued their monthly meetings—their organisation has been kept intact; polling district Secretaries are in charge of each polling area. . . .

"The League of Youth has been re-organised, and is doing excellent work. . . .

"A mock Parliament has been established and holds monthly meetings.

"A goodly number of our members participated in the Annual Party Outing. . . .

"The membership scheme continues to operate. One third of the Division has to be canvassed before proceeding to recanvass the districts already covered. . . .

"84, Church Road, has been retained and converted into a lock-up shop, the large room being used for ward activities. . . .

"The Party organised a carnival during the autumn. . . .

"The Central Women's Committee was responsible for a bazaar which was a success. . . .

"There have been 18 meetings of the General Council and 17 meetings of the Executive Committee.

Our hearty congratulations to this live Party, and to its able Agent, Councillor H. E. Rogers, of 326a, Church Road, St. George, Bristol.

TOO LATE

We regret to disappoint a number of customers for our Collectors' Books whose orders have arrived after we have *completely sold out*.

BUT CHEER UP

We have, however, decided to reprint owing to the continued and pressing demand for these books. Will other prospective customers please note? Please don't be too late for this lot!

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SPECIAL NOTICE: Our original offer to supply books free to Parties making certain membership increases is withdrawn in respect of all future orders.

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OUTDOOR MEETINGS AND CAMPAIGNS.

The season for outdoor meetings is with us, and now is the time for Local Parties to take the opportunity of silencing the croaker who complains that Labour has grown respectable and is now afraid of outdoor work.

It is quite true that in many places conditions have changed, and historical pitches are no more. But the outdoor meeting is still as effective as ever if properly organised, and to-day Parties should be taking cognisance of new conditions and making their plans accordingly.

There is a great deal to be said for the regular weekly outdoor meeting, held at the same time and place, if pitches are available, but where parking places, bus stations and traffic has made the old stands impossible, we strongly advise a transference of activities into the by-streets, where it is possible to hold meetings fairly undisturbed. These meetings, however, should be shorter meetings, and in this way three or four streets may be covered in one night.

Notwithstanding everything to be said in favour of regular weekly meetings it must be confessed that as time goes on the attendance of workers from one's own Party slackens. And what is the good of a crowd unless workers are there to take the collection, to sell literature and to make members—not to mention the onus that rests upon them of forming the nucleus of a crowd at the beginning of a meeting?

An alternative plan might well be seriously considered of holding from time to time a special week's campaign of outdoor meetings. This way of rallying one's forces and concentrating one's efforts has a great deal in its favour. Outdoor meetings should always be advertised in some way, but the regular weekly meeting is unfortunately generally allowed to advertise itself, for the reason that continued advertisement proves too expensive.

A special week's campaign usually permits of extensive advertisement which is immediately reproductive. Such a special campaign has the further advantage of attracting better speakers, and of arousing more interest among one's own Party.

The object of outdoor meetings should never be merely to sow seed by the wayside. Much good is often

done by the sale of pamphlets to passers-by who never even stop to listen. The making of new members should be an indispensable object of each meeting. That means membership forms, and membership cards, and somebody ready to do the enrolment. The Stourbridge Division boldly announce on their advertisements the following message, and it strikes the right note:—

"AT EACH OF THESE MEETINGS WE SHALL DEAL WITH LABOUR'S POLICY. QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED, AND WE SHALL ENROL NEW MEMBERS."

Preparation for an outdoor meeting demands the provision of a proper platform. Soap boxes and chairs should be taboo; a specially made platform is far superior. Cars have the disadvantage that people will lean against them and youngsters will scratch them. A lorry, if it can be obtained, has the advantage of being more commodious and of providing room for literature.

Door-to-door invitations to the meeting made in the neighbourhood are valuable feeders. A display of Party colours is worth while, and what is also worth while is an attempt to keep the meeting quiet so that the speaker need not shout himself hoarse, and so prove an objection in the neighbourhood. Our own members can often assist in this matter by giving attention instead of creating hubbub by side conversations.

In a short meeting one collection should be made. At a long meeting the boxes should go round at least twice.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

One of the ways in which present Party rules for Local Parties are an improvement over the old rules is that they make provision for the early selection of Local Government candidates.

A number of reports have reached us showing that in many centres panels of Municipal candidates are already prepared, and the process of selection for the November elections is proceeding. Reports are also reaching us indicating considerable activity in county areas in preparation for the

triennial County Council Elections which are due next March.

We cannot too strongly urge our readers in town and country alike to get ready early for the strenuous fights which ought to be put up on both these occasions. It is inconceivable that the present Government will run its full course, and any preparations made for Local Government elections involves the brightening up of our electoral machine and the invigoration of our forces.

If this were all it would be enough, but there is the important matter also of making Labour's power felt still further in the Boroughs, and of making a deep inroad on Tory reaction in the County Councils.

We recognise the pervading difficulty of finding candidates, but this note is written with the object of still further gingering up early selection. An early facing up to any shortage of candidates is much more likely to lead to finding the right men and women than leaving the matter to the last minute. Early selection will also mean a better advertised and cheaper campaign, and it will result in money-raising efforts being made in time.

It should be remembered that the receipt of poor law relief within twelve months of becoming elected disqualifies an elected candidate from sitting on a County Council or County Borough Council. The disqualification does not apply to a non-County Municipal Borough.

SEASIDE AND HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

Regular readers of the "Labour Organiser" will recollect that on several occasions we have advised in favour of the organisation of large scale trips of Labour supporters to the seaside or other centres.

We are glad to note that this worthwhile activity is meeting with increased favour. We have before us some information relating to the Whitsun-Tuesday excursion organised by the Stourbridge Division to North Wales seaside resorts. This is the seventh large excursion organised by this Division since 1928, and the outings are proving increasingly popular and a benefit to many members of the Party, who, but for these arrangements would be entirely without this kind of enjoyment.

On the present occasion Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Llandudno were

chosen as the objective, thus giving a choice of price, ranging between 6s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. for what was termed a "half-day excursion." Times, however, were so arranged that from eight to eight-and-half hours was spent at the seaside, notwithstanding the distance from Stourbridge to the North Wales Coast.

Other Parties organising similar trips will be interested to know that the railway companies are only too ready to facilitate arrangements. The Great Western Railway Company for instance, will issue saving cards, enabling members to pay the cost by small weekly instalments. In the excursion under notice a special train was arranged to stop at no less than six local stations for pick-ups. Five hundred and fifty people were taken on this trip, and this, by no means the largest excursion which has come under our notice, was certainly a highly successful one.

As a variation on the above arrangements, we note that the King's Norton D.L.P. have arranged a grand outing to London on Sunday, July 2nd. In this case the charge is an inclusive one of 12s. 6d. for adults and 9s. for children under 14 years of age, but the outing includes train fare, lunch, river trip and other entertainments. We understand that a goodly number will be accommodated.

A DAINTY FOLDER.

Mr. C. A. Shepherd, Labour Agent, Barkston Ash D.L.P., sends us a specimen of a dainty little folder issued by that Party. The folder is printed on stiff paper with a flap for going through the post, or to close for purpose of delivery. It is an invitation to members and supporters to send in names of Labour supporters who may join the Party if approached. The purpose of course of collecting such information is to ensure that these people are later canvassed for membership. Space is provided in the folder for a list of names.

Probably because of the expense the issue of dainty brochures or folders by local Labour Parties is a rarity. When, however, Parties have the courage to do this thing, and to do it well, we believe that effective printing and get-up brings its own return just in the same way that it pays the capitalist advertiser.

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THE CLUB CO-OPERATIVE COUPON SCHEME

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This is the first announcement of this **original** scheme, the only one of its kind, and it is because its primary appeal is to those responsible for raising **Divisional Labour Party Funds** and creates particular enthusiasm among the millions of supporters of the Labour Movement, that we have chosen to publish it in **THE LABOUR ORGANISER**, which we have found the best medium for reaching the responsible secretaries to whom co-operation with this scheme means so much.

Full particulars of this and other ideas will be sent to all Secretaries, applying upon Official Notepaper to

**TAYLOR & ROGERS, 2 CHATTERTON ROAD,
LONDON, N.1.**

Readers of this who are not responsible for raising funds, will be doing a great service by showing this message to those to whom it is of great concern.

Local Labour Newspapers

By W. S. STIMPSON,

Labour Agent, Editor "West Fulham Labour Magazine."

Your article in the May issue of the "Organiser" is both timely and of importance. Anything that bears the label "permeation" must engage the thought of the Movement in the task of getting our view "across."

Beyond all question "on the door-step" and "through the letter-box" is the route to Westminster. In these days of distraction and diversions in varying forms of sport, the cinema, radio, etc., meetings as permeative agents are at a discount. The maximum strength of local organisation is strained to "fill" a meeting which, either is filled with the already converted, rendering the purpose of permeation void, or contains a strong vocal element which is duly grateful for the opportunity of propaganda provided for it, and diverts the meeting from an educative or permeative basis to one of challenge and refutation of an opponent's case instead of constructively stating our own.

The great majority of our individual membership, to put it kindly, is not disposed to attend meetings affecting the internal work of a local party. The majority, after a door-step campaign and a good deal of moral suasion, will pay their penny per week (and sometimes not too graciously to the collector) as an absolution . . . a redemption of their obligations. They will turn up trumps at election times with their vote; they will assist periodically in the many calls made for financial assistance, but they will not respond to our insistent calls to attend ward meetings, etc.

After the moil and toil of a day, variation in the form of sport or relaxation at home with the radio, is more appealing. And, in many cases, where political consciousness is not too well developed, theirs is perhaps an understandable attitude. We find the position that, as individual membership increases the greater is the strain upon the active members to maintain interest. Many members, seeing numerical strength increase, become disappointed when that is not translated into active participatory effort in internal organisation. But this membership, reliable in its loyalty, helpful in its financial assistance, but shy, diffident, temperment-

ally unadapted for routine work . . . how is it to be interested . . . kept in touch . . . the sure call in electoral need? Through the letter-box with the local party paper!

The production of a paper, maintaining the distributive organisation, is not spectacular. It's hard, slogging work, but it's *foundational* work. You cannot perhaps trace the reaction as definitely as a signed membership form from a meeting, but the results are accruing just the same . . . tilling the ground for future approach no one can tell when and where a thought lodged ends in residence . . . and the cumulative result of a regularity of "through the letter-box" is the enhancing of electoral chance when the test comes.

Local finance will determine the form and size of a paper. As you very wisely remark probably the failure of many party papers is a too ambitious commencement—"a vaulting ambition over-leaping itself." On the other hand, after a close investigation of all commitments involved being made, there is the feeling that they can "run the bigger thing" . . . then stride to the Olympian heights. But beware of the glamour. Make sure of facts first—the simple facts of printer's costs—editing—distribution and, most important of all, where the revenue is coming from.

As to size:—I prefer the magazine form of about 11in. by 9in. It is easy for handling by the distributors, and for insertion in the letter-box; makes for compactness of matter; and is the more readable and likely to catch a roaming eye than the purely newspaper form. Circumstances will of course vary in different districts, but a magazine of the above size, in 10,000 quantity should cost between £22 and £25 for 12 pages, about £27 10s. for 16 pages. An 8-page (unstitched) would cost about £15 for the same quantity.

Now revenue! It can only be secured (mainly) from those to whom we are opposed in principle . . . Private enterprise! otherwise the local draper or radio dealer, etc. And many people who put both hands up to endorse the "running" of a paper ladle out later their caustic criticism if you're suc-

cessful in getting the private traders' money for advertisements. They will say, "Fancy a Labour paper telling the people to go to 'Jones' instead of the 'Stores'." The obvious reply is: There isn't any "telling" about it... the buyer always makes the choice. And what these surface critics fail to visualise is that you are using your opponent's money for *our* propaganda. Carry these critics' argument to its logical conclusion and it means no journal propaganda unless a local party is prepared to carry at least four-fifths of its total cost. These critics must be borne in mind if you're wanting revenue for your paper.

Getting the revenue! Not an easy task—but again varying according to local circumstance. In some districts I can conceive it to be a very difficult task indeed, in other districts not so difficult, and in some districts a comparatively easy task if the *will* to break down long standing prejudice is there. We have too long held the view that the local tradesman will not advertise in a Labour journal... the sensible tradesmen *will*, providing advertisements rates and area of distribution meet his pocket and need. It needs persistence, or perhaps audacity. A submerging of that feeling of irritation that arises within you when a little shopkeeper keeps you making calls or standing humbly on the mat. But you want his *money* for the bigger thing, and so, if you're meaning business, you'll have to stand it humbly and patiently, and reserve your expletives for when you get back to the office.

After all, irrespective of political creed, everyone is a potential customer seeking the seller of the goods they require. That's the point for the hesitant shopkeeper, plus the fact that your journal has the largest circulation of any paper in your district, and that the advertisement matter is placed adjacent to reading matter in a manner that induces the attention of Labour sympathisers, and excites the curiosity of opponents who will read to see what you have to say about them. Curiosity killed the cat... and even opponents will be curious.

Who is going to get the advertisements? If a *reliable* canvasser can be got—one who knows the ropes—it is advisable to get him. Fix your rates so that with a 25 per cent. commission allowance your net income per page will be about £4. In practice it will be

found that you will need to vary rates according to the need of an issue. If someone can be found to do the job voluntarily, so much the better. You can then make the point that your rates are low because of no overhead or commission charges. But my experience is that the job is not remunerative enough for the really good man, so that finally it devolves upon the local people. Theory says appoint an editor, canvasser and circulation manager, but often the paper becomes the all-in-one job for the Admirable Crichton of the Party.

Perhaps these figures might be helpful to other parties considering a journal:—We commenced our "Magazine" in January, 1933, a 12-page issue with a distribution of 10,000 monthly. Cost of the six issues is approximately £114. Revenue from advertisements £102, leaving a monthly cost to the Party of £2. May and June issues were reduced to 8 pages mainly because of a withdrawal of local advertisers who objected to our attitude on the local unemployment charity scheme, but this little boycott has now been overcome and the probability is that by at least August we shall be up to 16 pages. The cost of the present 8-page issue is more than covered by revenue which is contract for the year.

A proportion of 60 per cent. of matter to 40 per cent. of advertisements makes for good lay out and does not give the impression of "overloading" with advertisements. At present, on 8 pages, we are 50-50. That is not good, it crimps your propaganda, and as we all suffer from the sin of prolixity it is a nightmarish job to "cut" matter to suit your space. I think we under-valued our space—which is a future remedial point. But other parties may do better and, if on an 8-page, costing say, £16, they rate at £5 per page, they have 3 pages they can allocate for advertisements and 5 for matter. Classified advertisements offer a remunerative field for revenue.

Concluding: taking everything into consideration, it is worth while "running" your paper, and presenting it in the best form and "tone" that you can command. The harvest is not always readily seen... but it is undoubtedly maturing at more firesides than we may dream of. Probably about 50 readers of our "Mag." have cut the Membership Application Form and

posted to the office . . . those members are generally the "stickers." On a full year's membership at 4s. that means £10, or almost equal the six months' cost of the paper to the Party.

I myself have wondered "does it do any good?" I've wished at times, when things have gone awry, or when there has been a particularly stupid and supercilious blouse-seller to see, or when a bright critic in the Party wants to know why "this" isn't in and "that" is . . . that our paper was a thing of "yet-to-be" instead of actual fact . . . but it is worth it as a small contribution to resolve, to the widening of a knowledge of the principles for which we stand, and for the knowledge that somewhere someone reads it, and that someone somewhere helps us to carry our message "aloft the night."

If I can be of any assistance to any inquirer they have but to command.

SCARBOROUGH.

"LANSBURY," Private Hotel, North Cliff, provides excellent accommodation for your holidays in SCARBOROUGH. Modern, comfortable, good and quick service. Terms: Mrs. Flint.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"My Plan for 2,000,000 Workless," by Mr. Ernest Bevin. Price one penny. Obtainable from the Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

This publication, which is probably already well known to our readers, on account of the vigorous publicity which has attended its issue, at least brings a realism into discussions of the unemployed problem. Its financial proposals and some of its conclusions have been questioned, though not unkindly, by Mr. Tom Johnston, who nevertheless values Mr. Bevin's pamphlet at its due worth. The pamphlet should be pushed not as embodying the programme of the Labour Party, but as a contribution by one who understands his subject towards the solution of the problem dealt with. There will be some criticism yet in detail.

"A Short History of the British Empire," by J. F. Horrabin. Price 1s. (paper covers), 2s. (cloth).

N.C.L.C. Publishing Society Ltd., 15, South Hill Park Gardens, London, N.W.3.

A new edition is to hand of Horrabin's "Short History of the British Empire." We enjoyed reading the earlier publication, as we always enjoy Horrabin's style. We have certainly been pleased to read the book again. Readers may question some of the author's deductions, but at any rate he throws an illumination worth having upon the growth of "Our Empire." He tells us something different from that which we were taught at school.

"Socialist Policy and the Problem of the Food Supply," by Rt. Hon. Dr. C. Addison. Price twopence. The Socialist League, 23, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1.

The Socialist League has lately incurred the displeasure of certain high quarters. But it won't get into trouble over the publication of this pamphlet, which would do credit to the Fabian Society. Dr. Addison certainly discusses an emergency policy, and the possibilities that sabotage might confront a Labour Government with. But the pamphlet so soberly states a case that it may even be considered to cancel out some of the bogies others have raised.

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Trades Unionists and I.M.

Question: We should like your ruling on a question which has agitated us here. We are trying to get individual membership and we have been very successful so far. We are, however, met by some of our Trades Union colleagues who say they are paying two shillings a year already to the political fund of their Union, and they think that ought to be sufficient without joining the Local Party as well. I pointed out to one of them that the Local Party only gets twopence out of the two shillings they pay, but this did not convince him.

Answer: Our correspondent is not the first one who has met the somewhat selfish and unsatisfactory reply which he mentions. There certainly are some Trades Unionists who possess so little knowledge of the necessities of political organisation, or who are so utterly mean as to shelter behind the small contribution they make for political purposes in their Union. After all, two shillings a year is less than a halfpenny per week, and of this sum it would appear that in the case of our correspondent's friend 1s. 10d. goes into the funds of the Union for its own particular political purposes. It is distressing to think that there can be Trades Unionists who feel that twopence in a whole year is all the value they can get out of the work of the Local Party. We advise our correspondent to keep pressing his point home.

The Same from Another Angle.

Question: I should like your advice on the following:—Can a member of an affiliated organisation claim to be a bona fide member of the Labour Party, or are we right in saying that any person who is a member of an

affiliated organisation must become an individual member before we can consider them members of the Labour Party. In support of this we quote the Constitution, Clause IV, Rule 2.

Answer: We presume that Set C Rules are those to which our correspondent refers, and Clause IV (2) reads as follows:—

"Each individual member and every person who is a member of an affiliated organisation desiring to take part in the work of this Party otherwise than as a delegate under Clauses VI and VII hereof must

(a) Accept and conform to the Constitution, Principles, Programme and Policy of the Labour Party and the rules of this Party, and

(b) If eligible, be a member of a Trade Union affiliated to the Trades Union Congress or recognised by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress as a bona fide Trade Union.

(c) Either reside in the Local Government Area or be registered therein as a Parliamentary or Local Government elector."

It will be noted that there is no mention here of a member of an affiliated organisation having to become an individual member in order to take part in the work of the Party, and no such condition is anywhere contained in the rules.

Our friend appears to have overlooked a provision of Clause X which reads:—

"A Ward Committee shall be established in each Ward of this Local Government Area. Membership shall consist of Individual Members of this Party and such members of affiliated societies as enrol themselves as members of a Ward Committee. Individual Members and affiliated members must

either reside in or be registered as Parliamentary or Local Government electors in the Ward in which they desire to act.

"The Executive Committee of this Party shall endeavour to secure lists of members of affiliated organisations and provide such members with opportunities for enrolment as Individual Members of this Party, or as members of Ward Committees."

It will be seen from the above that members of affiliated societies may enrol themselves as members of Ward Committees without becoming individual members, and this provision if properly used is of considerable value, though it may actually result in an extreme case in a person who is not an individual member representing his or her ward on the General Committee or Executive Committee. The second paragraph in the rule is however, of great importance, and the proper carrying out of these provisions far outweighs any disadvantages that might arise as a result of the first paragraph. It is not long before an affiliated member who functions on a Ward Committee becomes aware of the necessities of individual membership, and the financial exigencies of the Party. If his presence or service is likely to be of any value he soon joins up as an individual member.

The Powers of a Local E.C.

Question: Do I understand that the Executive has now to be regarded as the ruling power of the Party, and if so under what category do resolutions from a General Meeting go, and are we bound to accept them? Strictly speaking I fail to see why a General Meeting should amend, rescind or otherwise vary rulings of the Executive, unless a General Committee is formed for the purpose of being the major body.

Answer: The General Committee is in every case, under Party rules, the supreme body. The Executive Committee is subordinate to the General Committee, and the latter may instruct any Committee, and also by resolution perform any work or function which a Committee is ordinarily appointed to do.

In practice the Executive Committee carries on the functions of the Party between General Meetings, but we dislike the procedure where the

Executive hands over all current business to the General Committee on the occasions of the latter meeting. We consider that Labour Party rules and good practice imply that the Executive shall be responsible for all normal routine business at all times, excepting that any specially appointed Committee would be responsible for all duties falling within its terms of reference.

We also dislike the practice adopted by some Parties of reading Executive minutes at General Meetings. Minutes can be very uninformative as to the real nature of the business transacted, and generally speaking they are undesirable media for the conveyance of information to the General Committee. The Executive Committee along with any other Committee should present a report to the General Committee every time the latter meets, and this answers a better purpose.

The General Committee has the right to refer back for further consideration, or to vary any decision, come to by the Executive. It will be obvious, however, that good reasons should prevail for any actions of this kind, for an Executive may be presumed to possess information on matters not fully before the General Committee, and to have given a detailed examination of the matters on which it has come to a decision. The Executive Committee's report is always an important item of General Committee business.

It must be remembered that Party rules reserve certain functions which cannot be delegated to the Executive. The principal function so reserved is that of the selection of a Parliamentary candidate, but in Boroughs and Parties organised under Set C Rules, the General Committee have a function to perform in relation to Local Government candidates. The General Committee must also adopt rules; and it is its function to take all necessary steps to safeguard the Constitution, programme, principles and policy of the Labour Party within its area.

Does Ownership or Occupation Qualify?

Question: I have recently been having some dispute with the local overseer as to what qualifies for being placed on the register as a L.G. elector. He says that ownership is sufficient, and I say it is not. What does the "Labour Organiser" say about it?

Answer: So far as ownership is concerned it conveys no qualification whatever to be registered, and it is as well to get firmly in the minds of all concerned that occupation is the material fact in obtaining the Local Government vote.

The Representation of the People Act, 1928, lays down that a person must be occupying "as owner or tenant any land or premises." There is no difference in the matter between an owner and a tenant. Occupation is the sole factor. But a person who occupies as an intruder would not be entitled to be registered. A person who owns land or premises and does not occupy cannot obtain the vote. It must be remembered that ownership of itself is sufficient to confer a qualification to be elected. But this is an altogether different thing.

Annual Meeting Minutes — When To Be Read.

Question: Our D.L.P. meets quarterly. The Annual General Meeting is the February meeting, though the business of the A.G.M. is quite general, and in no sense differs from the ordinary quarterly meetings, except for the special business of electing officers.

Now I find a ruling that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting will not be read until 1934, so that matters which I wish to raise arising out of those Minutes cannot be dealt with. I should be glad if you would give your opinion of this procedure and some guidance as to how business ought to be conducted.

I have also been used to having E.C. minutes read and adopted at a General Meeting. Is this the proper procedure? I may say that there are no formal standing orders, and precedent determines the method here. The wards copy the procedure of divisional meetings.

Answer: We think the procedure our friend outlines is altogether undesirable and improper. It seems absurd that the minutes of a meeting should not be read for twelve months, and therefore are incapable of challenge for that period.

There are three other methods of dealing with this matter which we are aware of, and they are as follow:—

1. The Annual General Meeting is summoned for the same date and place as the General Meeting, but is held first, and business trans-

acted thereat is confined entirely to necessary formal business, including the adoption of the Annual Report. After the formal business is done the Annual Meeting is terminated and the General Meeting commences. The minutes of the Annual Meeting are not read at the next General Meeting.

2. A similar procedure to the above, but the annual minutes are read at the next General Meeting. This, however, is not quite accurate, because the next "General Meeting" is really the one that follows on the same day as the annual one.

3. The Annual Meeting and the General Meeting are held at one and the same time, and the minutes are adopted at the next General Meeting, but they are also read for general information at the following annual meeting. For our correspondent's guidance we should say that we consider the latter procedure to be the best.

As to our correspondent's further question regarding the reading of Executive minutes to General Meetings, we have expressed elsewhere in this issue our disapproval of this practice, for we consider that it is far better procedure for a definite report to be given by the Executive.

Aliens and Borough Councils.

Question: In your issue for September, 1931, you gave certain advice regarding the eligibility of aliens for election to a Borough Council. As I have a case in point I should be glad if you could amplify the reply there given. Can you also tell me what the following means in the 1914 (Qualifications) Act:—"and is not to repeal or take away, any other qualification, and is not to remove any disqualification." Would you also look up Rogers' Vol. II, Page 1, as I note he says under the heading "Disqualifications," Vol. 1, Page 5 . . . "Aliens were formerly disqualified by Sect. 9 of the M.C.A., 1882. That section has now been repealed by Section 47 of the R.P.A., 1918, and the disqualification, if any, now rests on the law as before 1882." Then he says, "See as to this, Vol. II, Page 1."

For the understanding of our new readers we will re-state the information given in the issue mentioned by our correspondent. In reply to a question we pointed out that owing to the

piecemeal character of recent legislation, a defect appeared which has inadvertently given aliens the opportunity of being elected on Borough and County Councils — at any rate until some decision of the Courts settles the matter in another way.

The position in regard to eligibility has at no time been the same for local governing bodies, and for Parliament. There was a time when aliens did actually sit in the British Parliament, but by a series of decisions they were excluded on the principle that they were unlikely or unable to promote the interest of a State to which they were not naturally allied, and in this connection it must be remembered that an oath of

allegiance is required of all Members of Parliament.

When the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, was passed no specific disqualification for election of aliens was mentioned therein for the reason that under Section 9 such persons were disqualified from becoming burgesses, and to be qualified to be elected a person must be a burgess.

The same rule applied to County Councils on their establishment in 1888, but when Urban, District and Parish Councils were established in 1894 a different line was taken, and a specific disqualifying clause was inserted in Section 46 of that Act.

Returning to Borough Councils it is interesting to note what followed.

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15, South Hill Park Gardens, London, N.W.3.

In 1914 the County and Borough Councillors Act enacted as follows:—

Extension of qualification to be elected on county or borough councils.

(1) Notwithstanding anything in the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, or any other Act, any person of either sex shall be qualified to be elected and to be a councillor or alderman of a county council or of a borough council and may be nominated for election as a councillor, if that person has resided within the county or borough, as the case may be, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the election:

(2) The qualification under this provision shall be alternative for, and shall not repeal or take away, any other qualification and shall not remove or affect any disqualification."

It will be seen from the above that the position of aliens was now left in doubt. True, as our correspondent points out, the wording of the Act was "shall not remove or affect any disqualification," but it might have been contended that there was no disqualification, and that any disqualification that existed related only to registration.

However, in 1918, Section 9 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, was repealed altogether, and a further extension of eligibility for election was contained in the R.P. Act; this time owners of property of any value or tenure became eligible for election.

The position therefore appears to be that aliens may now be elected to Borough and County Councils under the alternative qualifications of residence or ownership of property. We are totally unable to trace any general disability which would remove these qualifications.

Regarding our correspondent's reference to "Rogers on Elections," it is true that the latest edition of Vol. III of Rogers' is very ambiguous, and it makes an altogether unnecessary reference to page 1 of volume 2, where the position of aliens in relation to Parliament is dealt with. The reference does not clear up the matter in any way, and we note that our opinion is supported in large degree by the only reference there is to the matter in Arnold's "Law of Municipal Corporations."

Formalities for L.P. Newspapers.

Question. A newly-formed editorial committee is responsible in our Division for getting out the enclosed paper, which is duplicated each month. We have had the hint dropped that as the local firm who duplicates this sheet for us is not registered, that there is a risk of being penalised, and that our Committee are also on dangerous grounds. Our practice is to give the order with the plan of lay-out and to leave the matter there till we receive the copies back. We have not notified any authority of our action, taking this to be unnecessary. Any advice you can give regarding these points would be appreciated.

Answer: The paper enclosed, a duplicated local journal, bears no imprint, and in this respect only are our friends at fault. The paper should certainly bear an imprint such as, "Printed and published by ———," or "printed by ——— and published by ———."

As to registration, our friends need not worry about this matter.

**Do ALL the officers
of your Party get the
"L.O."?**

If not, why not?

**The "L.O."
serves ALL**

Readers visiting Bournemouth this year will find that "Loughtonhurst," advertised in our columns, is an ideal place in which to stay. It is situated on the cliffs in the best part of the town, and all rooms have gas fires. Mrs. A. Townley, South Western Woman Organiser, writes: "May I add a few words of recognition for a real place to rest in the best part of Bournemouth, right near the sea and cliffs."

The attention of our readers is specially drawn to the striking new poster issued by the Labour Party and announced on opposite page.